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SUMMARY

Although the discussion of, and preparations for, the 19th All-Union Party Congress were among the principal reasons for calling the Republican Congresses into session, the Revised Party Statute claims surprisingly little attention. Comment on it is invariably highly favorable and stereotyped, and most of the amendments submitted deal primarily with the phraseology of minor points. The achievements and shortcomings of the Union Republics, however, are familiarly reviewed by all the principal speakers, some of them admitting more failures than others. In the case of Moldavian SSR, for example, Communist boss Brezhnev found himself the object of severe criticism by Congress members who doubted the authenticity of the facts presented by him. Similar doubts were expressed in the case of Turkmenia's reports on the achievements of the cotton industry.

PRAVDA took note of the fact that at the Uzbek Party Congress discussion of ideological affairs were significantly held down to a minimum despite the fact that the nationalist question in that Republic admittedly calls for close attention. Uzbek Party chief Nyazov even felt compelled to admit that the "friendship" between the Uzbek and Great Russian people does not always evoke universal hosannas among the Republic's historians and writers. Some of them, in fact, are suspected of desiring a little more nationalism and less of the mentioned friendship. The Turkmenian Party Congress is told by Secretary Babayev that the Republic's Central Committee itself is known to have condoned certain manifestations of bourgeois nationalism as witnessed by its approval of a book containing anti-State views. The Committee was accused also of shielding corrupt officials on the assumption that incompetence alone does not justify their dismissal.

In Kirghiz SSR, like in the other Asiatic Republics, charges were heard against the inferior status of native women who are reported to be kept out of the educational, cultural and economic life of the Republic. Thinly veiled reference to Anglo-American propaganda influence is made by Party Secretary Kalnberzin in his speech to the Latvian Party Congress.

Discussions of Party activities focus attention on the widespread corruption among high Communist officials, suppression of criticism from below, and the faulty selection, training and appointments of executive Party workers. All the speakers made it clear that the accent is now on quality rather than quantity, and that that applies to industrial production and agriculture as well as to the selection of officials. Too many officials, it appears, are still being hired without a preliminary investigation of their abilities or past history.

The consumer industry in all the Republics under review is admittedly lagging behind, particularly in the production of certain foodstuffs and building materials for housing construction. Belorussian agriculture is attacked by both the Republic Party Congress and PRAVDA, the latter stating bluntly that the harvest gathered by the collective farms is disappointing.

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